

CONGRESS TO SEE
THAT GAS IS SAFEDangerous Product Will Not
Be Tolerated in District.

INQUIRY WILL FOLLOW

President Sends Special Message
Urging Immediate Action.

Members of the District Committee of the House discuss informally the report of the Attorney General, and Private Investigations May Result in Introduction of Bill to Relieve Alarming Conditions.

THE MESSAGE.

"I transmit herewith for the consideration of the Congress a letter from the Attorney General and accompanying papers, and call particular attention to the copy of the communication of the United States Attorney Baker under date of January 5.

"The situation in reference to the composition of illuminating gas furnished in the District of Columbia is one that would seem to require immediate action.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

Congress will force the Washington Gaslight Company to furnish a safe illuminating gas to the people of the District of Columbia.

This action was decided upon yesterday when the members of the District Committee of the House of Representatives read in The Washington Herald the report of experts submitted by the Department of Justice to the President, charging that the gas now furnished contains a large amount of the deadly carbon monoxide.

The President yesterday afternoon sent a special message to Congress inclosing the report of the Attorney General, embracing the findings of the experts of the Bureau of Chemistry.

In transmitting the findings of the experts and the Department of Justice, the President in a message of about seventy-five words said there seemed to be need of immediate action.

The members of the District Committee are not satisfied upon the reports now in hand that the company is responsible for the deaths said to have resulted from carbon monoxide in the gas, but a thorough investigation will be held. Then, if it is shown that the gas is inferior and dangerous, legislation will be enacted to bring about a change at once.

Discussed by Committee.

The discussion came up informally in the committee room yesterday morning before the regular meeting of the committee, and several of the members expressed themselves to the effect that inferior or dangerous gas would not be tolerated. The committee can discuss only subjects which have been referred to it, and therefore, no formal action was taken. However, it was decided that the matter needed immediate attention.

Representative Sims had read the article more thoroughly than other members of the committee, and he related the principal points to his colleagues. After the meeting Mr. Sims said that, although he could not determine from the reports whether the gas company was responsible, and therefore could make no definite statement, he was confident that Congress would see that a proper and safe illuminating gas is furnished.

"I do not believe the gas company would dare furnish a dangerous article to the consumers knowingly," said Mr. Sims. "I think the company itself would attend to the safety of its patrons; but if it does not, action will be taken to force a better product."

Others for Safe Gas.

Chairman Smith also was much interested in the report of the Attorney General, and he, too, said that if the gas now furnished is shown to be of a dangerous quality, legislation should be enacted to insure the safety of the consumers. Other members of the committee, as well as other Representatives, said that a thorough investigation should be made and steps taken, if necessary, to have a pure gas manufactured.

The members of the Senate District Committee will favor whatever steps are necessary to insure the safety of the public, and it is known they will concur in any action the House Committee takes after its investigation.

A meeting of the committee will be held this morning, and although no action can be taken, it is expected the matter will be brought up informally.

DISTRICT OFFICIALS
AROUSSED OVER GAS

Expressions of approval of the action of President Roosevelt and the District Commissioners, in recommending legislation to prevent the distribution of "water gas" by the Washington Gaslight Company, were heard on all sides yesterday.

Commissioner Macfarland said yesterday that the District officials would do everything in their power to hasten the matter, as soon as an opinion was expressed by members of the House District Committee. Corporation Counsel Thomas has been asked to see if temporary relief cannot be had through some chapters of the District code.

Report Studied Carefully.

A copy of the papers connected with the investigation, together with all the correspondence, was procured from the Department of Justice, by the District Commissioners, yesterday morning. Commissioner Macfarland studied the papers carefully and called Commissioner West and Engineer Commissioner Maj.

Developments of Day
in the Gas Situation

The President sends a special message to Congress declaring there seems to be need of immediate action.

Members of the District Committee of the House declare that dangerous gas will not be tolerated in the District, and a thorough investigation will be had.

Congress will frame legislation to force the Washington Gaslight Company to furnish a safe product to the people of the District.

Expressions of approval of the investigation which disclosed the dangerous nature of gas furnished the people of the District are general throughout the city.

The District Commissioners study reports carefully and consult as to immediate means for relief.

Corporation counsel is called upon by the Commissioners to ascertain what legal steps can be taken to prevent the manufacture and distribution of "water gas."

Brokers and traders "on change" steer wide of Washington Gaslight stock and not one share changes hands.

WEATHER FORECAST.

For the District of Columbia, Delaware, and Maryland—Snow to-day; possibly becoming heavy. To-morrow partly cloudy; fresh to strong northeasterly winds.

HERALD NEWS SUMMARY.

Pages. TELEGRAPHIC.
1—Mrs. Erb Acquitted, Seeks Estate.
1—Indiana Legislature Convened.
1—Savannah Defies State Laws.
1—Night Riders Found Guilty.
1—Ex-Senator Wellington Vindicated.
2—Taft and Knox Hold Conference.
2—Impulsive Insanity in Hains' Plea.
2—Only One House Left in Messina.

LOCAL.
1—Diplomats Received at White House.
1—Roosevelt Denounced in Resolution.
1—Gas Reports Sent to Congress.
5—Sisby Will Contest Now On.
4—Democrat Scores Tariff Policy.
7—Red Cross Fund Is Growing.
12—Progress in Inaugural Preparations.

"DRYS" GET ONE, "WETS" ONE.

Davis Jones Resigns of Prohibition

Johns, Hendricks Refuses.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Cumberland, Md., Jan. 7.—The election at Davis, W. Va., to-day was a contest between the "drys" and "wets" and the latter won on a direct vote by 214 to 161. The town is now wet. The entire independent ticket was elected as follows: Mayor, J. Elton Hall; recorder, D. H. Eschelman; councilmen, John Dignan, N. C. Heiskell, F. N. Morin, John Reese and H. H. Weaver.

At Hendricks, W. Va., the "wets" won, electing four of the five councilmen. The following are the successful candidates: Mayor, A. W. Windom; recorder, M. C. Browning; councilmen, A. H. Roy, F. C. Kelm, Joseph Graver, William Swartz and C. F. Burley.

SPIES AND SLEUTHS OUSTED.

District Attorney Warns Detectives

Away from Federal Building.

Chicago, Jan. 7.—Spies, sleuths, and other detectives not employed by the United States government, were informed publicly to-day, by District Attorney Sims, that they might just as well remain at their homes and offices, instead of loitering around the Federal building, as they can secure no information of the Federal grand jury, and district attorney's office proceedings, and they can do no good to their clients. The presence of detectives was discovered by government Secret Service men working on the investigation of Chicago's Packtown, which is being conducted before the grand jury by the district attorney's office, under orders from Washington, D. C.

GLAD WHEN ROOSEVELT GOES.

West Virginia Senators Will Heave

a Sigh of Relief.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 7.—Senator Elkins and Senator Scott, of West Virginia, it is said, will heave a sigh of relief when Roosevelt retires from the White House next March, and for this sigh there will be a large chorus from others of the southern end of the State.

Scott is said to have publicly expressed his satisfaction that Roosevelt was to enter private life, and that Elkins echoes this same sentiment in known from the remarks he has let fall from time to time.

GIRLS TRY TO JOIN TROUPE.

Brother Reaches Hinton in Time to

Intercept Them.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Hinton, W. Va., Jan. 7.—Two sisters, Misses Sweetwood, of Staunton, arrived here to join the Herald Square theatrical troupe playing one night stands, escaping their home and parents. Their baggage was in possession of theatrical managers, but the girls' brother arrived in time to get them and took them home last night. Their baggage was later released by the opera company. The Sweetwoods are prominent.

Santa Claus a Little Late.

Tarrytown, N. Y., Jan. 7.—John D.

Rockefeller, Jr., gladdened the hearts of the distributee \$10 gold pieces. The employees had almost given up hope. This evening with his wife he came to Tarrytown to spend the night, and before he got into his carriage he walked around the depot and distributed the gold pieces.

\$125 to Baltimore and Return.

Saturdays and Sundays via Pennsylvania

Railroad. Tickets good returning until

Sunday night. All regular trains except

the "Congressional Limited."

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SIX NIGHT RIDERS
GUILTY OF MURDERMitigating Circumstance Is
Found by Jury.

CHARGE IS MADE CLEAR

Judge Points Out Law in Reel-
foot Lake Case.

Declares If Defendants Took Capt. Rankin Out to Inflict Corporal Punishment and If He Was Slain All Present Are Guilty of Murder. Second Degree for Two of the Men on Trial at Union City.

Union City, Tenn., Jan. 7.—The jury in the night rider trials returned a verdict at 8:30 o'clock to-night of murder in the first degree, with mitigating circumstances, against Garrett Johnson, Fred Pinion, Arthur Clear, Sam Applewhite, Tild Burton and Roy Ransom, and murder in the second degree against Bud Morris and Bob Huffman.

Judge Jones, in his charge to the jury, left no hope for the defendants who were present or near by when Capt. Rankin was murdered, though they had intended only to punish him without taking his life.

Murder in First Degree.

If the jury discredited the alibis, then, he said, they must return a verdict of murder in the first degree for every man they believed was present or near by to give warning on interruption no matter by whom the fatal shot was fired or the noose drawn.

Judge Jones pointed out that even if the night riders took Capt. Rankin out for the purpose of inflicting corporal punishment and that one of their number shot or hung him while the others were present, or even near by, adding or abetting or willing to do so, all alike would be guilty of murder in the first degree.

In other words, it was not necessary to prove that all of the defendants intended to murder Capt. Rankin, but only that they conspired to inflict corporal punishment upon him and were present or near by when he was killed.

OCEANIC DROPS A PROPELLER.

Liner a Day Late, but Passengers

Ignorant of Cause.

New York, Jan. 7.—The steamship

Oceanic dropped a propeller on New

Year's day, two days out from Cher-

bourg, and was a day late, arriving in

New York to-day. There was but a

slight vibration when the blade was lost

and many of the passengers did not

know of the difficulty till they learned

the reason why they had been a day late.

Harold Ponsette, military attaché of the

Swedish Legation at Washington was a

passenger.

THREE KILLED IN EXPLOSION.

Car Load of Powder Set Off by Spark

from the Engine.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Clifton Forge, Va., Jan. 7.—A carload

of powder exploded at Lignite to-day,

killing three men instantly and injuring

four others. One of the latter will die.

Lignite is on the Craig Valley branch

of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, where

the Orliskany Ore and Iron Corporation

operates an ore mine.

The powder had been transferred to

the ore cars of the mine railway and

was on its way to the powder magazine

when a spark from the engine found its

way to a defective keg and caused the

explosion. The shock damaged the train

and created no little excitement in the

section where it took place.

A message was sent here for nurses and

doctors, but was later countermanded,

the mine physician giving the injured the

necessary attention.

FAVOR EARLY CAUCUS.

Indiana Senatorial Candidates Are

Active.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 7.—The sixty-

seventh regular session of the Indiana

general assembly convened here to-day.

The house was organized by the Demo-

crats, and the senate by the Republicans.

Representative Thomas Honan, of Sey-

mour, was elected speaker of the house

by the Democrats. Senator Will Wood,

of Lafayette, Republican, was elected

president pro tem. of the senate. No

official business was transacted. Gov.

Hanly will deliver his final message to-

morrow.

The six Senatorial candidates expressed

themselves to-day in favor of an early

caucus.

It is probable that the Democrats will

meet Tuesday night to name a successor

to Senator James A. Hemenway.

FEAR FOR BIG STEAMER.

Members of Crew of the Anglo-

African May Also Be Lost.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 7.—Grave fears are

expressed for the safety of the British

steamship Anglo-African, which went

ashore off Cape Charles light in the fog

of Monday night.

An effort to board the vessel was un-

successful on account of the heavy seas.

Wrecking vessels which have been stand-

ing by have been driven back to port. It

is feared the big ship and her cargo are

doomed. The members of her crew may

also be lost, if they did not leave before

the storm came.

Three Dead in Fire

Calumet, Mich., Jan. 7.—Three persons

were killed and four seriously injured,

as the result of a fire to-day, which de-

stroyed a three-story store and apart-

ment building. The dead: Mrs. George

Bolton, twenty-eight, and two children,

Everett and Mary Curtis.

NEW BLOW AIMED
AT SECRET SERVICEAttorney General Is Asked
About Special Agents.

RESULT OF ANNUAL REPORT

Representative Clarke, of Florida,

introduces resolution in the House

demanding information on the

"Black Cabinet," which he con-

tends is not provided by the law.

Another blow was directed at the un-

authorized activities of the Secret Service

yesterday when Representative Clarke, of

Florida, introduced a resolution in the

House calling upon the Attorney General

to give all the information in his posses-

sion as to the activities of the special

agents in the Department of Justice, their

duties and salaries, and under what law

he organized a "force of special agents."

The resolution was introduced following

the annual report of the Attorney General

telling of the work of the Secret Service

men in his department, and of the or-

ganization of an especially good force of

special agents.

Mr. Clarke contends there is no law

providing for the special agents in the

Department of Justice, and that there is

no law permitting the Secret Service men

to do any work other than look after

counterfeiting and the personal welfare

of the President.

The resolution probably was prompted

by the recent action of the department

in bringing certain residents of Florida

into court in New York on a charge of

peonage, their cases having been worked

up by special agents of the department.

After hearing the testimony in the case,

the justice ordered the jury to return a

verdict of acquittal, saying there was no

evidence to show their guilt.

This document, together with the other

action in progress by the Senate and

House, is believed to be the real begin-

ning of the fight of Congress against the

"Black Cabinet" of the government.

EVADE THE STAMP TAX.

Baltimore Brewers Arrested by Or-

der of Internal Revenue Office.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 7.—Conrad Eurich,

Conrad Eurich, Jr., and Jacob Eurich

were arrested this evening at the instance

of the Internal revenue department on

the charge of disposing of 1,500 barrels

of beer and evading the stamp tax

thereon.

The Eurichs, father, son, and nephew,

recently purchased from a syndicate the

Mount Vernon Brewery, paying \$36,000

cash and accepting a bonded indebtedness

of \$50,000. They remained in business

three months, when they failed.

WELLINGTON IS VINDICATED.

Judge Gorter, at Baltimore, Dis-

misses Wilson Divorce Bill.

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 7.—Judge Gorter

vindicated former United States Senator

Wellington to-day, when, in an elaborate

decision, he dismissed the bill for divorce

filed by Dr. Pierce B. Wilson from his

wife, Talitha V. Wilson, in which the

Senator was named co-respondent.

The decision followed lengthy argu-

ments, in which the court severely scored

the complainant and the testimony of his

witnesses, especially that of Miss Lillian

Davis.

Haas to Be Brought Here.

New York, Jan. 7.—Judge Ward, of the

United States Circuit Court, has sustained

the action of Commissioner Shields in

holding for removal to Washington for

trial Moses Haas, who, with Theodore

H. Price and others, was indicted here

and in Washington on the cotton leak

cases. Haas is out on bail.